

# Face to Face with the Malagasy population and the lemurs

## Group Tour 2024 **Short version**

A new program for a group tour, guided by Klaus Heimer (64), who has been living in the country for more than 20 years as photographer and journalist and also works for the Madagascar guidebook of the Reise-Knowhow serie in german language (it came out in 2009, 2012, May 2015 and probably in 2024). This tour of around 700 km in an internationally mixed group leads to the east of the country, along the Pangalanes canal, through Tamatave, Foulpointe, Fenerive Est and then from Soanierana-Ivongo by boat to the former pirate island of Sainte Marie (if the sea is not too rough), where you can see with some luck from June to September humpback whales. Then back to Tana by the domestic flight airline Tsaradia. This tour includes the visit of one Nationalpark and two small reserves. Meet the local population, enjoy the knowledge of your English and German speaking guide, and many opportunities to take great pictures. You'll also experience some culinary highlights. As a bonus, you can bring a USB stick with you and you'll get a copy of all pictures which the guide Klaus Heimer will take, he'll also take pictures of the participants.

We'll offer this tour in 2024 at the following 8 dates, **in an internationally mixed group. There can also be german speaking clients in the group.** If there'd be four or more English speaking persons in the group, we'll normally add a supplementary English speaking guide:

April 19. to 28. (Arrival the latest on April 20<sup>th</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
May 10. to 19. (Arrival the latest on May 11<sup>th</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
May 31. to June 09. (Arrival the latest on June 1<sup>st</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
July 12. to 21. (Arrival the latest on July 13<sup>th</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest Juli 20<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
Aug. 09. to 18. (Arrival the latest on Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
Sep. 06.. to Sept. 15. (Arrival the latest on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest Sept 14<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
Oct. 25. to Nov. 03 (Arrival the latest on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10PM)  
Nov. 22. to Dec. 1. (Arrival the latest on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> 05AM, departure the earliest Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 10PM)  
Other dates upon request, but then with another guide than Klaus Heimer

Subject to modifications of the flights

Depending on the chosen airline, some additional nights in Tana will be necessary, you'll find the tariff per supplementary night here below.

**Le Voyageur Tour operator Travel agency**

Lot II I 22 AJ Morarano Alarobia  
P. O. Box 40 Ambohimananina  
Antananarivo 101, Madagascar  
Tel: +261 20 22 43521  
voyageur@madagaskar.travel  
www.madagaskar.travel

Bank: BMOI, Ankorondrano, 101 Antananarivo, Madagascar  
Acc. No. 02020500183-32  
IBAN: MG46 0000 4000 0402 0205 0018 332  
BIC: BMOIMGMG

R.C.: 97 B 481 NIF: 2384140 Id. Stat.: 583 702

**1<sup>st</sup> day Friday: ANTANANARIVO**

Depending on flight arrival, meet and greet at the international airport of Antananarivo Ivato (short form for Antananarivo is "Tana") and transfer to the hotel Belvedere in the city center or similar, overnight there.

Due to the events on some airports in the world, the safety regulations have been tightened, and only people with a valid flight ticket have access to the airport now. Don't let your luggage out of hand. The driver will wait for you with a sign just outside of the arrival hall.

**2<sup>nd</sup> day Saturday: ANTANANARIVO – ANDASIBE** (142 km, about 4 hours driving time, on a good tared road)  
Drive on the National Road No. 2 (RN 2) around 142 km to the well-known National Park Andasibe (Analamazaotra – Mantadia). On the way, stop at the private reptiles park in Marozevo where we can see chameleons and other animals close up. In the morning, we'll buy at a supermarket in Tana already all we need for an open air picnic lunch. Check-in at the hotel Feon'ny Ala or similar. Possibility to do a nocturnal visit along the road outside of the park with a local nature guide, where with the help of flashlights you can see nocturnal lemurs (mostly Goodman mouse lemurs with maximum 50 grams, wooly lemurs and fat tail lemurs), sleeping chameleons, tree frogs, etc.. We'll walk maximum one hour along the flat road. Dinner possible at Mary's guesthouse. Overnight at the Feon'ny Ala hotel or similar.

**3<sup>rd</sup> day Sunday: ANDASIBE – MANAMBATO - AKANIN'NY NOFY** (Akanin'ny Nofy means „Nest of dreams“, 125 km on good road, then 7 km on dirt track, then some 1,5 hours on the boat on the canal)  
The around three hour long early morning walk (first a little ascent, then mostly flat) leads from around 07h30 with a local park guide through the evergreen secondary forest of the Park Analamazaotra, on the trail Indri 2. Here we can see with some luck two of the 63 families living in this area of the biggest lemur, the Indri, with its distinctive call. You can also see many birds, some reptiles (if its not too cold) and other species of lemurs (Diadem Sifakas, Brown lemurs, Bamboo lemurs etc.). Then drive on the RN2 to Brickaville, we'll then shortly after the big railway bridge turn right and drive -then by 4WD car - on a dirt track to Manambato which is situated on the shore of lake Rasoabe. Then drive by boat along the Pangalanes canal to Akanin'ny Nofy at lake Ampitabe, where we'll stay in the Palmarium hotel with an attached lemurs park or at the annex "Palmarium beach". Overnight with breakfast at the Palmarium hotel or annex , electricity is produced by a generator and switched off at night. We'll only take light luggage (day pack) with us if possible for this two days.

**4<sup>th</sup> day Monday: AKANIN'NY NOFY**

In the morning, walk of several hours in the Palmarium park to spot several species of lemurs, who'll watch us attentively, we'll see some from quite close up. When night falls, boat excursion to a place where you can spot the very rare and nocturnal Aye Aye lemur (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) with the long middle finger, eight of them live on this well guarded island in the canal. Should the weather be good on the day before, we'll be flexible and do this visit then. Overnight with breakfast again at the Palmarium hotel or at the annex.

**5<sup>th</sup> day Tuesday: AKANIN'NY NOFY - TAMATAVE - FOULPOINTE** (around 2,5 hours by boat, then some 60 km on the road to Foulpointe)

60 km long Motorboat transfer to Tamatave, the biggest harbour town of Madagascar, then lunch or buy a picnic lunch, and continue after by minibus to Foulpointe, a seaside resort, which is also popular among the Malagasy on weekends. If there's enough time, we'll discover the 1817 to 1824 built old Fort Manda with its guide Fidel. We'll enjoy the sea and its food, walk along the beach or relax. Dinner possible at the "Friendly Fisherman" restaurant. Overnight at the Manda Beach Hotel or similar.

**6<sup>th</sup> day Wednesday: FOULPOINTE – SOANIERANA-IVONGO - SAINTE MARIE** (around 100 km on the road with potholes, then some 1,5 to 2 hours on the ferry boat to the former pirate island)

Early breakfast at 05h30 AM, then at 6 AM departure to Soanierana-Ivongo, then do the registration formalities there and then cross the sea with the "Gasikara Be" ferry to the beautiful island of Sainte Marie. Overnight at the bungalow hotel Lakana or similar on the beach between the airport and the city of Ambodifotatra, on half board base. If the sea should be too rough and the boat transfer forbidden, we'll change the program spontaneously, and stay another night in Foulpointe, and try next day.

7<sup>th</sup> day Thursday: **SAINTE MARIE**

Free day on Sainte Marie. We can explore the south of the island with the Ile aux Nattes or explore the North or east by walking or bicycle or by Tuk Tuk, or do water sports or relax on the beach. The pirates cemetery is also interesting to see at low tide (communal tax around 4 €/person), it can now be reached easily. Between July and September, a whalewatching excursion can be booked through the hotel. Enjoy the nice sunset. Overnight again at the Hotel Lakana or similar.

If due to the rough sea, the ferry transfer to Sainte Marie wasn't possible, we'll start the drive back, and will drive until Andasibe or Moramanga (depending on hotel availability), overnight there and continue to Tana next day.

8<sup>th</sup> day Friday: **SAINTE MARIE - ANTANANARIVO (domestic flight, not daily)**

Depending on flight schedule, transfer to the airport and flight to Tana, if there's no last minute change with Air Madagascar / Tsaradia. Rest of the day free. Overnight at the Belvedere Hotel or similar.

If the Sainte Marie island visit wasn't possible due to weather conditions, we'll continue the drive back to Tana

9<sup>th</sup> day Saturday: **ANTANANARIVO**

Visit the historical sites of Ambohimanga (UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001). It is the sacred city of the Merina, and was once the residence of the most powerful of all Merina princes, King Andrianampoinimerina. No stranger was allowed to enter it until its conquest and final subjugation by the French in 1896. It had seven city gates, and the most powerful of them still serves as the entrance gate to the place. Next to the gate stands a huge, smoothly polished and almost circular stone slab. In earlier times, it was rolled in front of the entrance gate every evening. From the 1468-metre high "Blue Hill" - as Ambohimanga is called in translation - you have a beautiful view of Tana and the surrounding area. Then if flying with AF, day use of a room where you can relax a bit, shower and change and possibly have dinner. Then, depending on departure time, transfer to the airport for the return flight with Air France. Or if flying with ET or another airline, then an overnight stay in a hotel.

10<sup>th</sup> day Sunday: **ANTANANARIVO – HOME**

Take off at about 01.25 AM or later, or, depending on the airline, transfer to the airport for your flight back home

TARIFFS PER PERSON, public rate

From 02 People:

In DOUBLE ROOM: 1665 Euro

Single supplement: 300 Euro

Supplementary night in Antananarivo at Belvedere hotel, if necessary due to flight arrival:

Tariff per person incl. tourist levy and breakfast:

In DBL room: 36 €

In SGL room: 66 €

**Including:**

- Transfers airport – hotel - airport
- Accommodation based on bed and breakfast in the above mentioned or similar midrange hotels, except on Sainte Marie: on half board there
- Parks and reserve fees (Andasibe, Palmarium)
- Service of local guides in parks and reserves
- Visits which are mentioned in the program
- Sedan car, Minibus or bus rental with a driver and fuel for the road trip
- Transfers by the hotel owned boat (there may be other passengers on board) Manambato – Akanin’ny Nofy – Tamatave
- Boat transfer with the local ferry Gasikara be from Soanierana-Ivongo to Sainte Marie, there can be other passengers on board, If the sea should be too rough, this will be cancelled and the program changed accordingly.
- English and german speaking guide escort from the agency
- Aye Aye nocturnal visit
- A bottle of drinking water per person per day
- Tourist levy and VAT

**Excluding:**

- International flights and their taxes
- Domestic flight Sainte Marie – Tana, approx. 150 to 250 € incl. taxes
- Visa fees (10 € for max. 15 days stay, 35 Euro for stay of max. 30 days)
- Other meals and drinks
- Water sports, bicycle rental etc. on Sainte Marie
- Whale watching excursion on Sainte Marie
- Individual travel insurance, also for luggage, accident, theft and cancellation

Changes in the program reserved

The above mentioned hotels are planned for the tour, but this is subject to modification:

Tariffs are subject to changes, especially if heavy fluctuation in exchange rate and/or fuel prices. All tours and tariffs are subject to changes in case of cancellations or overbooking of flights or trains, changes in timetable, bad weather and road conditions, strike, political troubles, problems with fuel supply, tribal and other war, closing of sites, natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and other acts of God. Please also see our general conditions.